

1 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
2 CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

3  
4 NAM IL KIM,

5 Plaintiff,

6 v.

7 ALEJANDRO N. MAYORKAS,  
8 SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT OF  
9 HOMELAND SECURITY, et al.,

10 Defendants.

Case No. 2:23-CV-00299-DMG-E

**PROTECTIVE ORDER**

11 **I. PURPOSES AND LIMITATIONS**

12 Discovery in this action is likely to involve production of confidential, for-official-  
13 use-only, law-enforcement-sensitive, and/or private third-party information, for which  
14 special protection may be warranted. Accordingly, the parties hereby stipulate to and  
15 MOVE the Court to enter the following Stipulated Protective Order (“Order”). The Order  
16 does not confer blanket protection on all disclosures or responses to discovery; the  
17 protection it affords from public disclosure and use extends only to the limited information  
18 or items that are entitled to confidential treatment under the applicable legal principles, and  
19 it does not presumptively entitle parties to file confidential information under seal.  
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22 **1. CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION**

23 “Confidential Information” shall include the following types of information  
24 produced or otherwise exchanged:

25 a. an individual’s social security number, personal identification numbers, tax  
26 identification number, alien registration number (“A number”), passport numbers, driver  
27 license numbers, and any similar identifiers assigned to an individual by the federal  
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1 government, a state or local government of the United States, or the government of any  
2 other country;

3 b. any other information that, either alone or in association with other related  
4 information, would allow the identification of the particular individual(s) to whom the  
5 information relates;

6 c. birth dates;

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8 d. any information that is protected or restricted from disclosure by state or  
9 federal statute or regulation, but which the Court may order produced, such as information  
10 protected by the Privacy Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552a, and other statutes or regulations that may  
11 prevent disclosure of specific information related to noncitizens, including, but not limited  
12 to: 8 U.S.C. §§ 1160(b)(5), (6), 1186A(c)(4), 1202(f), 1254a(c)(6), 1255a(c)(4), (5),  
13 1304(b), and 1367(a)(2), (b), (c), (d); 22 U.S.C. § 7105(c)(1)(C); 8 C.F.R. §§ 208.6,  
14 210.2(e), 214.11(e), 214.14(e), 216.5(e)(3)(viii), 236.6, 244.16, 245a.2(t), 245a.3(n),  
15 245a.21, 1003.27(b)-(d), 1003.46, and 1208.6, which otherwise could subject either party  
16 to civil or criminal penalties or other sanctions in the event of unauthorized disclosure;

17 e. names of any individuals known to be under 18 years of age;

18 f. addresses, email addresses, and telephone numbers of all parties and  
19 witnesses, including potential witnesses;

20 g. any sensitive, but unclassified, information to include limited-official-use  
21 or for official use only information;

22 h. any information compiled for law enforcement purposes, including, but not  
23 limited to, investigative files and techniques related to the integrity of the legal immigration  
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1 system, suspected or known fraud, criminal activity, public safety, or national security, and  
2 investigative referrals;

3 i. bank account numbers, credit card numbers, and other financial information  
4 that can be specifically linked to an individual's or entity's financial account;

5 j. medical information, such as medical records, medical treatment, and  
6 medical diagnoses; and  
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8 k. names, email addresses, and phone numbers of federal employees.

9 If a designating party determines that information not described in this paragraph  
10 should be designated Confidential Information, the parties shall negotiate the  
11 appropriateness of that designation in good faith and endeavor to resolve any dispute prior  
12 to the production of that information. If the parties are unable to resolve the dispute within  
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14 14 calendar days, the designating party shall designate the material as containing  
15 Confidential Information and produce it. The receiving party can then challenge the  
16 confidentiality designation(s) pursuant to paragraph 6 of this Order. Information that has  
17 been made public under the authority of a party and information that does not permit the  
18 identification of the particular individuals to whom the information relates are not  
19 considered Confidential Information, unless otherwise covered under one of the categories  
20 identified above.  
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## 22 **2. SCOPE**

23 The protections conferred by this Order cover not only those portions of any  
24 documents containing Confidential Information (as defined above), but also: (1) any  
25 information copied or extracted from those portions of any documents containing  
26 Confidential Information; (2) all copies, excerpts, summaries, or compilations of  
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1 Confidential Information; and (3) any testimony, conversations, or presentations by parties  
2 or their counsel that might reveal Confidential Information. However, the protections  
3 conferred by this Order do not cover information that is properly in the public domain or  
4 becomes part of the public domain through trial or otherwise.

5 **4. ACCESS TO AND USE OF CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION**

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7 a. Basic Principles. A receiving party may use Confidential Information that  
8 is disclosed or produced by another party or by a non-party in connection with this case  
9 only for litigating, defending, or attempting to settle this litigation. Confidential  
10 Information shall not be disseminated outside the confines of this case, nor shall it be  
11 included in any pleading, record, or document that is not filed under seal with the Court or  
12 redacted in accordance with applicable law. Confidential Information may be disclosed  
13 only to the categories of persons and under the conditions described in this Order.  
14 Confidential Information must be stored and maintained by a receiving party at a location  
15 and in a secure manner that ensures that access is limited to the persons authorized under  
16 this Order. Nothing in this Order supersedes existing independent statutory, law  
17 enforcement, national security, or regulatory obligations imposed on a party, and this Order  
18 does not prohibit or absolve the parties from complying with such other obligations.  
19 Nothing in this Order shall restrict the right of any producing party to use its own  
20 Confidential Information for any purpose whatsoever, but if any such use results in a  
21 disclosure that causes the Confidential Information to lose its designation as Confidential  
22 Information, then it shall no longer be subject to any protection under this Order. Nothing  
23 in this Order should be construed as prohibiting a non-party from seeking additional  
24 protections of records or information that it owns or controls.  
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1           b.     Disclosure of Confidential Information or Items. Unless otherwise ordered  
2 by the Court or permitted in writing by the designating party, a receiving party may disclose  
3 any Confidential Information only to:

4               (1)     The named parties and Plaintiff's counsel in this action and any  
5 support staff and other employees of such counsel assisting in this action  
6 with an appropriate need to know. If any of Plaintiff's counsel cease to  
7 represent Plaintiff in this action for any reason, such counsel shall no longer  
8 have access to or be authorized to receive any Confidential Information;  
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10              (2)     experts and consultants to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary  
11 for this litigation and who have signed the "Acknowledgment and  
12 Agreement to Be Bound" (Exhibit A);  
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14              (3)     the Court, court personnel, and court reporters and their staff;

15              (4)     copy or imaging or data processing services retained by counsel to  
16 assist in litigation, provided that counsel for the party retaining the copy or  
17 imaging or data processing service instructs the service not to disclose any  
18 Confidential Information to third parties and to immediately return all  
19 originals and copies of any Confidential Information;  
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21              (5)     during their depositions, witnesses in the action to whom disclosure  
22 is reasonably necessary and who have signed the "Acknowledgment and  
23 Agreement to Be Bound" (Exhibit A), unless otherwise agreed by the  
24 designating party or ordered by the Court. Pages of transcribed deposition  
25 testimony or exhibits to depositions that reveal Confidential Information  
26 may not be disclosed to anyone except as permitted under this Order; and  
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1 (6) the author or recipient of a document containing Confidential  
2 Information or a custodian or other person who otherwise possessed or  
3 knew the Confidential Information.

4 c. Use of Information Subject To Order. Use of any information or documents  
5 subject to this Order, including all information derived therefrom, shall be restricted to use  
6 in this litigation (subject to the applicable rules of evidence and subject to the  
7 confidentiality of such materials being maintained) and shall not be used by anyone subject  
8 to the terms of this agreement, for any purpose outside of this litigation or any other  
9 proceeding between the parties. Notwithstanding the foregoing, nothing in this Order  
10 supersedes existing independent statutory, law enforcement, national security, or  
11 regulatory obligations imposed on a party, and this Order does not prohibit or absolve the  
12 parties from complying with such other obligations. Nothing in this Order shall limit or in  
13 any way restrict the use of information obtained outside of this litigation.  
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16 d. Filing Confidential Information. Before filing Confidential Information  
17 with the Court, or discussing or referencing such material in court filings, the filing party  
18 shall confer with the designating party (where practical, at least seven calendar days prior  
19 to the intended filing date) to determine whether the designating party will remove the  
20 confidential designation, whether the document can be redacted, or whether a motion to  
21 seal or stipulation and proposed order is warranted. Local Civil Rule 5.8 sets forth the  
22 procedures that must be followed and the standards that will be applied when a party seeks  
23 permission from the Court to file material under seal.  
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1 **5. DESIGNATING PROTECTED MATERIAL**

2 a. Manner and Timing of Designations. Except as otherwise provided in this  
3 Order (*see, e.g.*, paragraph 5.a(1) below), or as otherwise stipulated or ordered,  
4 disclosure of discovery material that qualifies for protection under this Order must  
5 be clearly designated before or when the material is disclosed or produced.

6 (1) Information in documentary form: (*e.g.*, paper or electronic  
7 documents and deposition exhibits, but excluding transcripts of depositions  
8 or other pretrial or trial proceedings). The designating party must affix the  
9 words “CONFIDENTIAL PURSUANT TO PROTECTIVE ORDER” to  
10 each page that contains Confidential Information.  
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12 (2) Electronic Information Not Amenable to Marking Document: For  
13 electronic information that is provided in native form or a format that is not  
14 amenable to visible endorsement on the image, the file name(s) shall begin  
15 with “CONFIDENTIAL PURSUANT TO PROTECTIVE ORDER.” The  
16 media on which the Confidential Information is provided (*e.g.*, CD, DVD,  
17 external hard drive) also must be and remain plainly labeled with  
18 “CONFIDENTIAL PURSUANT TO PROTECTIVE ORDER” unless and  
19 until the protection of the data within the media is removed. Any copying  
20 or transferring of electronic files that are designated as Confidential  
21 Information must be done in a manner that maintains the protection for all  
22 copies, including, but not limited to, in the filename(s) and the location  
23 where the copies are stored and users’ access thereto.  
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1 (3) Testimony given in deposition or in other pretrial or trial  
2 proceedings: The parties must identify on the record, during the deposition,  
3 hearing, or other proceeding, all protected testimony, without prejudice to  
4 their right to designate other testimony after reviewing the transcript. Any  
5 party or non-party may, within 30 calendar days after receiving a deposition  
6 transcript, designate portions of the transcript, or exhibits thereto, as  
7 confidential. The entire deposition transcript (including any exhibits not  
8 previously produced in discovery in this action) shall be treated as  
9 Confidential Information under this Order until the expiration of the above-  
10 referenced 30-day period for designation, except that the deponent (and his  
11 or her counsel, if any) may review the transcript of his or her own deposition  
12 during the 30-day period subject to this Order and the requirement of  
13 executing the certification attached as Exhibit A. After designation of  
14 Confidential Information is made, the following shall be placed on the front  
15 of the original and each copy of a deposition transcript containing  
16 Confidential Information: “CONFIDENTIAL PURSUANT TO  
17 PROTECTIVE ORDER.” For interrogatory answers and responses to  
18 requests for admissions, designation of Confidential Information shall be  
19 made by placing within each interrogatory answer or response to requests  
20 for admission asserted to contain Confidential Information the following:  
21 “CONFIDENTIAL PURSUANT TO PROTECTIVE ORDER.”  
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26 (4) Other tangible items: The producing party must affix in a prominent  
27 place on the exterior of the container or containers in which the information  
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1 or item is stored the words “CONFIDENTIAL PURSUANT TO  
2 PROTECTIVE ORDER.” If only a portion or portions of the information  
3 or item warrant protection, the producing party, to the extent practicable,  
4 shall identify the protected portion(s).

5 b. Inadvertent Failures to Designate. If a party inadvertently fails to designate  
6 material as Confidential Information at the time of production, it shall take reasonable steps  
7 to notify all receiving persons of its failure within five business days of discovery. The  
8 producing party shall promptly supply all receiving persons with new copies of any  
9 documents bearing corrected confidentiality designations, and the receiving party shall  
10 destroy the original materials, and certify in writing to the producing party that such  
11 information has been destroyed.  
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13 c. Documents Produced Prior to the Filing of this Order. Any Confidential  
14 Information that was produced prior to of the Court’s entry of this Order is protected even  
15 if the producing party did not designate the document or information as confidential as  
16 provided in this agreement.  
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18 **6. CHALLENGING CONFIDENTIALITY DESIGNATIONS**  
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20 a. Timing of Challenges. Any party may challenge a designation of  
21 confidentiality no later than 60 days prior to trial.

22 b. Meet and Confer. The parties must make every attempt to resolve any  
23 dispute regarding confidential designations without court involvement. Any motion  
24 regarding confidential designations or for a protective order must include a certification, in  
25 the motion or in a declaration or affidavit, that the movant has engaged in a good faith meet  
26 and confer conference with other affected parties in an effort to resolve the dispute without  
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1 court action. The certification must list the date, manner, and participants to the  
2 conference. A good faith effort to confer requires a face-to-face meeting or a telephone  
3 conference.

4 c. Judicial Intervention. If the parties cannot resolve a challenge without  
5 court intervention, the challenging party may file and serve a motion to withdraw  
6 confidentiality. The burden of persuasion in any such motion shall be on the designating  
7 party. All parties shall continue to maintain the material in question as confidential until  
8 the Court rules on the challenge.  
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10 **7. PROTECTED MATERIAL SUBPOENAED OR ORDERED PRODUCED**  
11 **IN OTHER LITIGATION**  
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13 If a party is served with a subpoena or a court order issued in other litigation that  
14 compels disclosure of any information or items designated in this action as  
15 “CONFIDENTIAL PURSUANT TO PROTECTIVE ORDER,” that party must:

16 a. promptly notify the designating party in writing and include a copy of the  
17 subpoena or court order;

18 b. promptly notify in writing the party who caused the subpoena or order to  
19 issue in the other litigation that some or all of the material covered by the subpoena or order  
20 is subject to this Order and provide a copy of this Order with that notification;  
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22 c. cooperate with respect to all reasonable procedures sought to be pursued by  
23 the designating party or parties whose Confidential Information may be affected, including  
24 objecting and seeking a protective order in the litigation in which the subpoena or order  
25 issued; and decline to produce the Confidential Information if an objection has been made  
26 until the objection has been resolved unless disclosure, dissemination, or transmission is  
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1 required by law or court order. Any person, entity, or organization who receives  
2 Confidential Information shall abide by all terms and conditions set forth herein unless  
3 otherwise permitted by court order.

4 **8. UNAUTHORIZED DISCLOSURE OF PROTECTED MATERIAL**

5 If a receiving party learns that, by inadvertence or otherwise, the party has disclosed  
6 Confidential Information to any person or in any circumstance not authorized under this  
7 Order, the receiving party must immediately:

- 9 a. notify in writing the designating party of the unauthorized disclosure(s);  
10 b. use best efforts to retrieve all unauthorized copies of the protected material;  
11 c. inform the person or persons to whom unauthorized disclosures were made  
12 of all the terms of this Order; and  
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14 request that such person or persons execute the “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be  
15 Bound” that is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

16 **9. INADVERTENT PRODUCTION OF PRIVILEGED OR OTHERWISE**  
17 **PROTECTED MATERIAL**

18 When a producing party gives notice to receiving parties that certain inadvertently  
19 produced material is subject to a claim of privilege or other protection, the obligations of  
20 the receiving parties are those set forth in Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(b)(5)(B).  
21 This provision is not intended to modify whatever procedure may be established in an e-  
22 discovery order or order that provides for production without prior privilege review.  
23 Nothing contained herein shall prejudice the right of any party to object to the production  
24 of any document or part thereof upon any appropriate ground, including any applicable  
25 privilege, and nothing herein shall be construed as a waiver of such right.  
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1 **10. TERMINATION AND RETURN OF DOCUMENTS**

2 Within 60 calendar days after the termination of this action, including all appeals,  
3 each receiving party shall destroy all Confidential Information obtained from another party  
4 in its possession, custody, or control. The parties shall agree upon appropriate methods of  
5 destruction.

6 Notwithstanding this provision, counsel are entitled to retain one archival copy of  
7 all documents filed with the Court; trial, deposition, and hearing transcripts;  
8 correspondence; deposition and trial exhibits; expert reports; attorney work product; and  
9 consultant and expert work product, even if such materials contain Confidential  
10 Information, provided that such material is and remains clearly marked to reflect that it  
11 contains Confidential Information, and such counsel maintain the confidential nature of the  
12 discovery, as set forth in this Order. Notwithstanding the foregoing, nothing in this Order  
13 shall be construed to supersede any party's independent obligation to maintain records in  
14 accordance with the Federal Records Act or other statutory or regulatory record-keeping  
15 requirements. The confidentiality obligations imposed by this Order shall remain in effect  
16 until a designating party agrees otherwise in writing or a court orders otherwise.  
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20 **11. MISCELLANEOUS**

21 a. Enforceability Upon Signing. By signing the Order, the parties agree to be  
22 bound by its terms unless and until those terms are modified by order of the Court.

23 b. Right to Further Relief. Nothing in this Order abridges the right of any party  
24 to seek its modification by the Court in the future.

25 c. Right to Assert Other Objections. By stipulating to entry of this Order, no  
26 party waives any right it otherwise would have to object to disclosing or producing any  
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1 information or item on any ground not addressed in this Order. Similarly, no party waives  
2 any right to object on any ground to use in evidence of any of the material covered by this  
3 Order.

4 d. Effect of Order. This Order shall constitute a court order authorizing  
5 disclosure of information designated as confidential, subject to the protections described  
6 herein, for purposes of the Privacy Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552a(b)(11) (authorizing disclosure  
7 pursuant to the order of a court of competent jurisdiction) and any other state or federal  
8 statute or regulation that provides for disclosure pursuant to court order.  
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1 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

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3 Dated this 6th day of January, 2025 in Los Angeles, California.

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5 HONORABLE CHARLES F. EICK  
6 UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE  
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**STIPULATION EXHIBIT A**  
**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND AGREEMENT CONCERNING PROTECTED**  
**INFORMATION**

1. My name is \_\_\_\_\_ (first, middle, initial, last).
2. I am employed as a/an \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_ (company), which is located at \_\_\_\_\_ (street address), \_\_\_\_\_ (city), \_\_\_\_\_ (state) \_\_\_\_\_ (zip code). Its telephone number is \_\_\_\_\_.
3. I have read the attached Protective Order entered in the *Kim v. Mayorkas, et al*, pending in the Central District of California and bearing No. 2:23-cv-00299, and a copy of the Protective Order has been given to me.
4. I agree to be bound by the terms of the Protective Order, and agree that Confidential Information, within the meaning of the Protective Order, will be used by me only to assist counsel in connection with above-referenced litigation or as otherwise authorized by the Protective Order.
5. I agree that I will not disclose or discuss Confidential Information or other Protected Information so designated with anyone other than the persons described in Paragraph 4 of the Protective Order.
6. I understand that any disclosure or use of Confidential Information in any manner contrary to the provisions of the Protective Order may subject me to sanctions for contempt of the Court's Order.

1 7. I agree to be subject *in personam* to the jurisdiction of the Central District of  
2 California in connection with any proceeding related to the enforcement of the  
3 Stipulate Protective Order.  
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6 I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.  
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10 \_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature